



Reissue Application No. 09/902,475
Response to Final Office Action
Page 2 of 17

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This is a reissue application. The rules set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 do not apply to reissue applications. Subparagraph (h) of Section 121 states:

(h) *Amendments in reissue applications.* Any amendment to the description and claims in reissue applications must be made in accordance with § 1.173.

Accordingly, the following amendments are presented in accordance with Section 1.173.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the application as follows:

32. (New) A mold shell for use with a machine for manufacturing thermoplastic containers, comprising:

a shell body defining an impression of a substantial portion of a container to be manufactured, and defining an outer wall shaped to be in at least partial mutual thermal-conduction contact with said machine;

a mold bottom defining a base impression of a base portion of the container to be manufactured;

at least two axial positioning assemblies by which said shell body may be fixed in an axial direction with respect to said machine; and

one or more bearing surfaces, each positioned along said shell body and sized and shaped to receive a quick-fixing locking member for releasably securing said shell body with respect to said machine.

33. (New) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein said impression extends from an upper neck portion of said container to said base portion.

34. (New) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein said shell body comprises a first shell body portion and a second shell body portion, said portions together defining an impression of a substantial portion of the container to be manufactured.

35. (New) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein each of said at least two axial position assemblies comprises one or more grooves along said outer wall of said shell body and one or more mating ribs.

36. (New) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein said mold bottom is movable with respect to said shell body.

37. (New) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein said mold shell is shaped to be supported and at least partially enveloped by a mold carrier.

38. (New) A shell body for use with a mold bottom to form a mold shell, the mold shell for use with a machine for manufacturing thermoplastic containers, the shell body comprising:

an outer wall shaped in order to be in at least partial mutual thermal-conduction contact with said machine;

an impression of a substantial portion of a container to be manufactured;

at least two axial positioning assemblies by which said shell body may be fixed in an axial direction with respect to said machine; and

one or more bearing surfaces, each positioned along said shell body and sized and shaped to receive a quick-fixing locking member for releasably securing said shell body with respect to said machine.

39. (New) The shell body of claim 38, wherein said impression extends from an upper neck portion of said container to said mold bottom.

40. (New) The shell body of claim 38, wherein said shell body comprises a first shell body portion and a second shell body portion, said portions together defining an impression of a substantial portion of the container to be manufactured.

41. (New) The shell body of claim 38, wherein each of said at least two axial position assemblies comprises one or more grooves along said outer wall of said shell body and one or more mating ribs.

42. (New) The shell body of claim 38, wherein said shell body is shaped to fit with said mold bottom, wherein said mold bottom is movable with respect to said shell body.

43. (New) The shell body of claim 38, wherein said shell body is shaped to fit with said mold bottom to form said mold shell.

44. (New) The shell body of claim 43, wherein said mold shell is shaped to be supported and at least partially enveloped by a mold carrier.